Promoting Integrated Resource Recovery Centres in Urban Asia

Solid waste management that creates job opportunities, new resources, cleaner communities and profit.

In Asia, governments face increasing costs of solid waste disposal – while public health and the environment suffer from the damaging effects of untreated solid wastes. Landfill space is fast becoming scarce. To meet the challenges of increasing waste, pollution and limited space, cities need efficient, low-cost solutions.

Integrated Resource Recovery Centres (IRRCs) are a change in the paradigm and treat waste as a resource from which money can be made. IRRCs are a means of providing urban communities with effective solid waste management along with additional sources of income. With IRRCs, regular waste collection improves the sanitation of surrounding communities, lessens the need for landfills and reduces greenhouse gases. Through composting, IRRCs also produce a new resource that can be sold and the high-quality compost improves the yields of local farmers.

ESCAP is currently developing IRRCs in 10 cities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, and is exploring future opportunities in Bhutan, Pakistan and Nepal.